Sovereign Grace Church

September 17th, 2023

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"…the LORD will not forsake His people for His great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you His people."

(1 Samuel 12:22)

Joseph D Murphy, Pastor

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Sovereign Grace Church

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www.sovereigngracechurch.us

Make us all in Thee complete,
In Thyself for glory meet,
Meet to appear before Thy sight,
Partners with Thy saints in light:

Call, O call us each by name;
To the marriage of the Lamb;
Let us lean upon Thy breast;
Love be there our endless feast.

— Augustus Toplady (1740-1778)

Welcome

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect church, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's *undeserved* grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

Announcements

Lincoln Wood Baptist Church, Grace Conference
October 20-22, Chris Cunningham & Gabe Stalnaker

Happy Birthday!
Ian Richards, September 24th

Resources

BE sure to visit our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

www.sovereigngracechurch.us

Absolute and total justification

"[Christ] *was delivered for our offences, and* [He] *was raised again for our justification.*" (Romans 4:25)

ALL faithful and true Christians believe only in [sin atonement by] His death. They long to be saved, through His passion and blood-shedding. This is all their comfort. They must know, and steadfastly believe, that Christ fulfilled the law; and that His fulfilling is theirs. So that they attribute unto Christ the getting and meriting of everlasting life. And so it followeth, that they, who attribute the remission of sins, the getting of everlasting life, unto themselves, or their works, that they deny Christ, they blaspheme and despise Him [John 14:23, 1 John 2:9].

He Himself had no sin at all. He suffered, to deliver us from everlasting damnation. He took our sins, and gave us His righteousness. Our Saviour is clearly open unto us. He hath suffered for us already, and fulfilled the law to the utmost: and so, by His fulfilling, taken away the curse of the law. By His passion, which He hath suffered, He merited, that as many, as believe in Him, shall be as well justified by Him as though themselves had never done any sin, and as though they themselves had fulfilled the law to the *uttermost* [Romans 4:25, Hebrews 7:25]. He was very man, and was bound to the law. To what end? That He might deliver us from the law, to which we were bound; and that we might receive the right of the children of God by adoption, through God's goodness, by His deserving: that we might have, through His fulfilling of the law, remission of sins and eternal life. These are the gifts, which He hath deserved with His keeping of the law. Once more: "He was a lamb undefiled, fulfilling the law for us to the uttermost; giving us, freely as a gift, His fulfilling to be ours; so that we are now fulfillers of the law by His fulfilling. So that the law may not condemn us, for He hath fulfilled it: that we believing in Him are fulfillers of the law, and just, before the face of God. Our unrighteousness is forgiven us through the righteousness of Christ: for, if we believe in Him, then are we made righteous. When He [God the Father] gave us His only Son, He gave us also His righteousness and His fulfilling of the law. So that we are justified by God's free gift, and not of ourselves, nor by our merits; but the righteousness of Christ is accounted to be our righteousness.

The justification of God's people, thus founded upon, resulting from, and secured by, the imputed righteousness of Christ; this justification, according…to the Scriptures, is absolute and total. "Our Saviour hath taken away our sins, so that they cannot hurt us. For they be no sins, in the sight of God. For He hath taken away the guiltiness of sins, and the pains and punishments which follow sins. Christ hath deserved, that those, who believe in Him, shall be [acquitted] from all their sins."

No people are more crumbled into subdivisions among themselves, than the Arminians. That particular sort of them, whose shameless and fruitless efforts to blacken the Church of England have given rise to this present work, are Arminian-*Perfectionists*. I mean Mr. John Wesley, and his junto [freewill faction].

— Augustus Toplady (1740-1778)

God will not forsake His people

"…the LORD will not forsake His people." (1 Samuel 12:22)

IT is said of the child in the gospel, that *"as he was yet a coming* [to the Lord], *the devil threw him down, and tare him"* (Luke 9:42).

Dejected sinner, it is no wonder that thou hast caught a fall in coming to Jesus Christ; is it not rather to be wondered at that thou hast not caught; before this, a thousand times a thousand falls? considering,

1. What fools we are by nature.

2. What weaknesses are in us.

3. What mighty powers the fallen angels, our implacable enemies, are.

4. Considering also how often the coming *sinner* is [in a pitiful state] in his journey, and also what stumbling-blocks do lie in his way.

5. Also his familiars (that were so before) now watch for his halting, and seek by what means they may to cause him to fall by the hand of their strong ones.

What then? Must we, because of these temptations, incline to fall? No. Must we not fear falls? Yes; *"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"* (1 Corinthians 10:12). Yet let him not utterly be cast down: *"The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up those that are bowed down"* (Psalm 145:14).

Make not light of falls. Yet hast thou fallen? *"Ye have,"* said Samuel, *"done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart; and turn ye not aside: …for the Lord will not forsake His people"* (1 Samuel 12:20-22).

— John Bunyan (Bookshelf)

EXCERPT FROM **COME AND WELCOME TO JESUS CHRIST**

O help our unbelief!

"…Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" (Mark 9:24)

IF THOU now art passing by us, Stand, and call us unto Thee; Fully, freely, justify us, Give us eyes Thy love to see; Love that brought Thee down from heaven, Made our God a man of grief, Let it shew our sins forgiv'n, Help, O help our unbelief!

PRINCE OF PEACE if Thou art near us, Fix in all our hearts Thy home, By Thy swift appearing cheer us, Quickly let Thy kingdom come; Answer all our expectation, Give our raptur'd souls to prove, Glorious, *uttermost* salvation, Heavinly, everlasting love [Hebrews 7:25, 1 Peter 1:5].

— Augustus Toplady (1740-1778)